

Translation of the pertinent portions of a Notification Regarding the Forwarding of the International Preliminary Report in Regard to Patentability, mailed 10/26/2005

2. This REPORT comprises a total of 7 pages, including this cover page.

3. ATTACHMENTS have been attached to this report, these contain

a. X (sent to applicant and the International Office) a total of 1 page.

4. This report contains information regarding the following items:

- I Basis of the Report
- IV Lack of Unity of the Invention
- V Reasoned Determination under Article 35(2)
- VIII Certain Remarks Regarding the International Application

Field No. I Basis of the Report

1. Regarding the **language** the report is based on the International Application in the language in which it was filed, if nothing different has been noted under this point.

2. Regarding the **contents** of the International Application, this report is based on

Specification, pages

1 to 33 in the originally filed version.

Claims, nos.

4-11 in the originally filed version.
1-3 received 05/06/05 with letter of 04/26/05

Drawings, sheets

1/14 - 14/14 in the originally filed version.

Field IV Lack of Unity of the Invention

1. Upon a request to limit the claims or paying additional fees, Applicant has

X paid additional fees

3. The Office is of the opinion that the requirement of unity of the invention under Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3

x was not met for the following reasons:

see the attached sheet

4. Therefore this report was prepared for

x all parts of the international application.

Field V Reasoned Determination under Article 35(2)

1. Determination

Novelty	Yes: Claims 1 to 11
	No: Claims

Inventive Activities	Yes: Claims 1 to 11
	No: Claims

Commercial Applicability	Yes: Claims 1 to 11
	No: Claims

2. References and Explanations (Rule 70.7):

see the attached sheet

Field VIII Certain Remarks Regarding the International Application

see the attached sheet

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

ATTACHED SHEET

Re.: Item IV

The general idea connecting independent claims 1 and 3 with independent claim 7 consists of the following characteristics:

"A printing group of a printing press, having a forme cylinder and an inking system, which has a first, a second and a third distribution cylinder, as well as a plurality of inking and application rollers wherein, in respect to sequence of the ink applications to the rotating forme cylinder, a first, front ink path can be formed from the first distribution cylinder via the second distribution cylinder, and via the third distribution cylinder a second, rear application path for the ink can be formed."

However, a printing group with these characteristics is not novel, since it has already been disclosed, for example in each of the publications DE-A-199 56 149 and DE-A-44 39 144 (see the respective citations in the search report).

Therefore there is no technical connection between claims 1 and 3 and claim 7 within the meaning of Rule 13(2) PCT, so that unity as required by Rule 13(1) PCT has not been provided.

Re.: Item V

1. The closest prior art in respect to the subject of claims 1 and 3 is the publication D1, which discloses a printing group with the characteristics of the preambles of claims 1 and 3.

The subject of claim 1, to the extent it is understood with regard to Point VIII, below, differs from D1 in that an ink roller is movably arranged in the inking system in such a way that, depending on the position of the inking roller, the second ink path selectively receives its ink either by direct contact of this inking roller with the first distribution cylinder, or with the second distribution roller.

The subject of claim 3 differs from D1 in that an inking roller is movably arranged in the inking system in such a way that, depending on its position, the front ink path from the first distribution roller via the second

distribution cylinder is selectively closed or completely interrupted, wherein an existing rear ink path from the first via the second distributing roller via the third distribution cylinder remains intact.

Therefore the subject of claims 1 and 3 is novel.

The differentiating characteristics of claims 1 and 3 correspond to each other in the variability of the paths the ink can take in the roller train, in order to attain thereby the object of the flexible changing capability of the inking systems in regard to different printing conditions.

Neither the publication D1, nor any of the other cited documents, nor a combination of their teachings is capable of suggesting the combination of the characteristics of claim 1 and 3.

Therefore claims 1 and 3 are based on inventive activities and, together with advantageous further embodiments of claims 2, 4 to 6 and 9 to 11, meet the requirements of Article 33(1) to (4) PCT.

2. The closest prior art regarding the subject of claim 7 is the publication D2, which discloses a printing group with the characteristics of the preamble of claim 7.

The subject of claim 7 differs from D2 in that by means of the operational change of rollers the second distribution roller can be selectively assigned to the inking system alone, or to the dampening system alone, or to the inking and the dampening systems together.

Therefore the subject of claim 7 is novel.

By means of it, the object of being able to flexibly respond to changes in the printing conditions by affecting the dampening and inking systems is attained.

Neither the publication D2, nor one of the other mentioned documents, nor a combination of their teachings is capable of suggesting the combination of the characteristics of claim 7 for attaining the stated object.

Therefore claim 7 is based on inventive activities and meets, together with the advantageous further embodiments of claims 8 to 11, the requirements of Articles 33(1) to (4) PCT.

Re.: Item VIII

The subject of claim 1 is not clear within the meaning of Article 6 PCT, since the expressions "front" and "located at the rear" ink path lack a reference. In accordance with claim 3, these expressions should have been made more precise by the subordinate clause "along a sequence in respect to the ink applications to the rotating forme cylinder".

Furthermore, for reasons of clarity "the roller (318)" should have been called "this roller (318)".

Claims

1. A printing group of a printing press, having a forme cylinder (304) and an inking system (305), which has a first, a second and a third distribution cylinder (316, 321, 324), as well as a plurality of inking and application rollers (315, 317, 318, 319, 320, 322, 323, 325), wherein ink can be supplied to the forme cylinder (304) from the first distribution cylinder (316) along a first, front ink path via the second distribution cylinder (324), and along a second ink path via the third distribution cylinder (321), characterized in that an inking roller (318) is movably arranged in the inking system (305) in such a way that, as a function of the position of the roller (318), the second ink path receives ink selectively either by a direct contact of this roller (318) with the first distribution cylinder (316) or with the second distribution cylinder (324).

2. The printing group in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the first inking roller (318) assigned to the second ink path can be selectively brought into contact with the first or with the second distribution cylinder (316, 324).

3. A printing group of a printing press, having a forme cylinder (304) and an inking system (305), which has a first, a second and a third distribution cylinder (316, 321,

324), as well as a plurality of inking and application rollers (315, 317, 318, 319, 320, 322, 323, 325), wherein ink can be supplied to the forme cylinder (304) from the first distribution roller (316) along a front ink path which, in respect to sequence of the ink applications to the rotating forme cylinder (304), is first, via an ink roller (317) and the second distribution cylinder (324), and along a second ink path located at the rear via the third distribution cylinder (321), characterized in that an inking roller (317) is movably arranged in the inking system (305) in such a way that, as a function of its position, the front ink path from the first distribution cylinder (316) via the second distribution cylinder (324) to the forme cylinder (304) is selectively closed or completely interrupted, wherein an existing ink path located at the rear from the first via the third distribution cylinder (316, 321) remains,

Translation of the pertinent portions of a letter from KBA to Jones, Tullar & Cooper, P.C., dtd. 11/30/2005

Gentlemen,

Please **replace** claim 1 in the "version to file" with the following claim 1:

1. A printing group of a printing press, having a forme cylinder (304) and an inking system (305), which has a first, a second and a third distribution cylinder (316, 321, 324), as well as a plurality of inking and application rollers (315, 317, 318, 319, 320, 322, 323, 325), wherein from the first distribution cylinder (316) ink can be supplied to the rotating forme cylinder along a first, in respect to the sequence of the ink applications, of a front ink path via the second distribution cylinder (324), and along a second, rear ink path to the forme cylinder (304), characterized in that an inking roller (318) is arranged seated in the inking unit (305) in such a way that, depending on the position of this inking roller (318), the second ink path is selectively provided with its ink either by a direct contact of this inking roller (318) with the first distribution cylinder (316), or with the second distribution cylinder (324).